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Congress of the United States
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 23, 1977

AGENCY
ARA

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is correspondence relating to three Argentine political prisoners: Mrs. Mercedes Julieta de Oliveira Cesar, Dr. Mauricio Lopez and Miss Monica Maria Candelaria Mignone. Any information you can provide with respect to their whereabouts, their health and their release would be greatly appreciated. Also enclosed is a letter from Susan Susman concerning the application for political asylum by Juan Carlos Asarte and his wife Alice. Full consideration of the application for political asylum would be greatly appreciated.

I would appreciate it if your response to my letter would also be sent to the correspondents who have written to me.

Sincerely yours,

Donald M. Fraser, Chairman
Subcommittee on International
Organizations

DMF:jsl

Enclosures

(61)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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1787 Main Street
Denver, Colorado 80218
(303) 837-2154

WASHINGTON OFFICES
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4431

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 21, 1977

Hon. Donald M. Fraser
Room 607 House Annex 1
INSIDE MAIL

Dear Don:

It has been brought to my attention that Dr. Mauricio Lopez, a respected leader in the ecumenical movement, was kidnapped from his home in Mendoza, Argentina on January 1, 1977 by five masked men.

Dr. Lopez, former Rector of the National University of San Luis from 1967 to 1976, was an official of the World Council of Churches' Department of Church and Society in Geneva from 1963 to 1967 and Latin America Regional Secretary for the World Student Christian Federation from 1956 to 1963.

If you would like to co-sign the attached letter to the President of Argentina, contact Linda Ittner of my staff at 59170.

Sincerely,

Pat

Patricia Schroeder
Congresswoman

PS/li
Encl.

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Denver Federal Building
1961 Stout Street
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Washington Office
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4676

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jorge Rafael Videla
President, The Republic of Argentina
The Pink House
Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Dear Mr. President:

We the undersigned Members of the United States Congress urge you to use every means at your disposal to locate Professor Mauricio Lopez.

It has been brought to our attention that Dr. Lopez was kidnapped from his home in Mendoza on January 1, 1977 by five masked men. Moreover, hope concerning his well being were rekindled when his family on January 7 received hand-written letters which indicated that he was well and receiving good treatment.

Dr. Lopez, a former professor of philosophy at the University of Cuyo in Mendoza and since 1967 the Rector of the National University in San Luis, is a respected leader of the world-wide ecumenical movement. From 1956 to 1963 he served as Latin America Regional Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation and from 1963 to 1967 was an official of the World Council of Churches' Department of Church and Society in Geneva.

We appeal to you to make every effort possible to locate Dr. Lopez, to insure the personal safety and assure the speedy release of this outstanding church leader.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS

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Events related to the disappearance of Monica Maria Candelaria MIGNONE, as given by her father, Dr. Emilio Mignone.

Personal Information: Born on February 14, 1951. Resident of the Washington, D.C. area from 1962 to 1967, attended high school at Eastern Jr. High, Silver Spring, MD. Graduated in Educational Psychology at the Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Worked at Hospital Pinero, Department of Psychopathology. Assistant Professor in Educational Psychology, Universidad Nacional de Lujan, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Volunteer social worker in Bajo Flores, a suburb of Buenos Aires. Status: single. C.I. 2.336.141

What Happened: On May 14, 1976, a group or armed men who identified themselves as members of the military forces entered the Mignone residence at 5a.m. and kidnapped Monica Maria Candelaria Mignone. The neighborhood was guarded by heavily armed men. The episode was witnessed by Monica's parents, and her five brothers and sisters. The Mignone residence was not searched.

Address: The Mignone residence is located at: Calle Santa Fe 2949, Apartment 3A, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Actions Initiated: All possible legal procedures have been exhausted, besides personal inquiries. Some of them are:

1. Habeas Corpus presented at the Federal Court.

2. Formal request filed at the Ministry of Interior for a determination of Monica's whereabouts

3. Petitions sent to the Argentine Episcopal Conference, Red Cross International, and others.

Personal proceedings have also been initiated but no information on Monica has been obtained.

Request: Dr. Emilio Mignone requests that the whereabouts and/or information as to whether his daughter is dead or alive be disclosed to him and his wife.

Expressing concern for the disappearance of Monica Mignone and that the search be intensified will be much appreciated. Please send copies of letters of concern to:

Emilio Mignone
Calle Santa Fe 2949, Apartment 3A
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Other Actions: Besides the actions initiated indicated above, Dr. Mignone and others have contacted the State Department, lobbying groups for human rights, and members of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the US House of Representatives.

PLEASE ADDRESS LETTERS OF CONCERN TO:

Exmo.Sr. Ministro del Interior
General Albano Harguindeguy
Balcarce 50
1064 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

New York, January 20, 1977

Congressman
Mr. Donald Fraser
House of Representative
Washington DC

Dear Sirs:

I am sending you the following denounce of kidnap and disappearance of an argentine citizen. I include all the reference which I think are necessary for you to ask the American Embassy at Buenos Aires(Argentina) by means of the State Department, to demand Argentine Government all the information about the destiny and physical and mental health of Mrs. Mercedes Julieta de Oliveira Cezar.

Documentation: Cédula de Identidad Nos 4.583.167
Address: Avenida del Libertador 1024- 7 piso-CAPITAL FEDERAL-Argentina
Civil state: Married-Divorced
Mother of 4 children: Veronica(10 years), Ioana(9 years), Ricardo(4 years) Luisa(3 years). They all lived with their mother who was their responsable and their economical support.

She was kidnapped on August 20th. 1976 at 3AM according to witnesses who were in the side walk. At that hour, 3 cars arrived and approximatly 10 persons descended, wearing civil clothes and obliged the newspaper man(who has his shop in front of Mrs. Oliveira Cezar's house) after threatning him with long weapons, to stay with his arms up against the wall. The armed individuals climbed to the seventh floor where Mrs. Oliveira Cezar was sleeping. Her children slept in the eighth floor. Other persons who were passing by at that time, saw when Mrs. Oliveira Cezar was introduced into one of the cars and went away.
The family and friends who went afterwards to Mrs. Oliveira Cezar's house found many books and clothes disordened and thrown on the floor. On her bed there were sheets tied together and a shirt she had used the night before ripped with a cutting instrument.
After consulting with military and police authorities who denied that she was lodged in any official dependence and after the anonymous threats received by her family and friends to convince them to stop their investigations about the destiny of Mrs. Oliveira Cezar, Inocio

personal friend) to come to the United States and ask for collaboration from the authorities, functionairies and organizations of this country. Mrs. Oliveira Cezar's situation is extremly dangerous since this type of kidnappings in the Argentine Republic are growing every day more tragic and inhuman.

Mrs. Oliveira Cezar is a graduate of Philosophy in the University of Buenos Aires and she owned a small factory of leather goods which she exported to the United States. During last June/July she was in New York where she made several contacts with decoration houses to continue her exportation business which was her only economic means. Her sons are now missing the economic support and most of all, the necessary love of their mother. Many psychiatrists have been consulted about the desviation of the children's behaviour after the disappearance of their mother and they said that those synthoms are due to the shock they received after the facts I have exposed. They also indicated the imperious need to join the children with their mother.

Knowing about your permanent interest in human wrights, I beg you for an urgent intervention. I would also thank you a soon reply to my letter as well as a copy of any documentation you may receive during your intervention.

I remain at you orders to provide you with any other information you may need, and since non grateful for your attention, expecting for your soon reply.

Sincerely yours

Juan S. Behr-Menéndez

Address: 282 Vanderbilt Ave.
BROOKLYN-New york 11205
New York